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CLOSED

OF COURSE, the United States will abide by the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. The case between the United States and Norway involved ships requisitioned by the United States during the World War, and the liability of the United States to the amount of thirteen million dollars, plus interest since August, 1917, was claimed. The United States Government recognized a liability for a sum approximating \$2,500,000. By a mutual agreement the questions at issue were submitted to the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The case had been most carefully presented. William C. Denis, Esquire, of Washington, represented the United States as agent. It was the privilege of the Editor of this paper to sit for a time through some of the hearings. He was deeply impressed by the care with which each side had prepared its case. It is reported that the court awarded fifteen different amounts, ranging from \$160,000 to \$2,890,000, totaling altogether \$12,000,000. We are informed that there have been some technical objections to the findings of the court. The Honorable Chandler Anderson, the American arbitrator, declined to be present at the session when the award was announced. He explained his absence in the following words:

"Sir, in making the award signed today, October 13, by President Valloton and the General Secretary, Messrs. Valloton and Vogt (the Norwegian arbitrator), in my opinion, have disregarded the terms of submission and exceeded the authority conferred upon the United States and Norway arbitration tribunal by the special agreement of June 30, which imposes definite limits to its jurisdiction."

We understand that American council holds that there has been a disregard of The Hague Convention of 1907, requiring the arbitrators to state the reasons for each award made. This, in our judgment, is a quibble. The decision, covering forty-two large printed pages, gives the reasons for the award in general. It might have been better had the reasons been given in each case, but the result would not have been different. The outstanding fact is that a matter of dispute between two governments involving a large sum of money has by mutual consent been referred to a body of arbitrators. The hearings have lasted through many months. A decision has been reached. No one alleges that any miscarriage of justice has taken place. No mere technical matter, such as has been advanced, should cloud the validity of the award. The matter should be considered closed.

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION OF AUSTRIA'S DIFFICULTIES

THE FATE of Austria, to which reference is made elsewhere in these columns, is now in the hands of the League of Nations. The appeals of Chancellor Seipel and Foreign Secretary Grünberger have been heard. With the advice and consent of the League, protocols have been drawn. It is reported that Great Britain, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and Austria have signed. By their provisions, the sovereignty and independence of Austria are to be maintained. A loan is to be granted to Austria and guaranteed by the signatories. Austria is authorized to issue bonds to the amount of 650,000,000 gold krona. Britain, France, Italy, and Czechoslovakia will guarantee up to 80 per cent of the loan, Austria to give security in terms of customs and receipts from the tobacco monopoly. Austria in return promises to reduce her deficit, and to raise the rates upon her railway, postal, telegraphic, and other services. The League has appointed a financial committee to aid in the re-establishment of Austria's budget balance. The League also appoints a Commissioner General to supervise the execution of the terms of the protocols. His term of office will last until the financial stability of Austria is assured. The Commissioner is to have wide authority, passing upon Austria's right to negotiate loans. In addition there is to be a Committee of Control, made up of representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. Any other government undertaking to guarantee the remaining 20 per cent may also be represented upon this committee.

Every person acquainted with the facts hopes that this arrangement, or some modification of it, will save the life of Austria. We understand that the Social Democratic Party—that is to say, the Labor Party of Austria—is opposed to the arrangement on the ground that it threatens the sovereignty of the State. Some of the signatory powers have professed to see difficulties in the way of executing the agreement. Our own judgment is that, in the present weakened condition of the Austrian Government, a controller is an advantage. The question of sovereignty is not a serious one; indeed, provision for its security is made. The Austrian Government needs the confidence not only of her neighbors, but of her own people. The present protocols ought to open the way for the return of that confidence.

There are evidences, however, that the League of Nations plan may fail. It looks to many Austrians like foreign domination. No provision is made to treat the causes of Austria's troubles, such as the customs barriers. The plan means still higher costs of living. It

is chimerical, as when it proposes that discharged officials emigrate. In the meantime the American dollar can buy 71,000 krona.

THREE DIFFICULTIES facing Europe are not entirely international. Each nation has plenty of problems within itself. Every citizen of Jugoslavia is apparently a political volcano with inexhaustible lava of ideas. Hungary is loaded with Hungarians returned to her from territories which she lost as a result of the war. The problem of minorities in Czechoslovakia is acute. In Sofia over half of the members of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences have been arrested; they are now held as political prisoners. The Fascisti are threatening the overthrow of the Italian Government. The opposition to Lloyd-George in Great Britain seems at last to be organized and articulate. We hear much of English, Italian, German policies. No European State has a policy which is not attacked by a considerable number at home.

THROUGHOUT the Western World there is a prevailing friendship for Greece. This is a natural result of the benefits that Greece, next only to Christianity itself, has conferred upon our civilization. Yet the peoples of the victorious nations in the World War will for the most part be pleased to note the downfall of Kaiser Wilhelm's brother-in-law, Constantine, King of Greece. Most Christians regret to hear of the success of the Turkish armies, but they have not forgotten Constantine's allegiance to their enemies. The United States has consistently refused to recognize the Constantine régime. It was undoubtedly a sad day for Greece when she took him back from exile in 1920. Venizelos might have carried through his Ionian policy, made Smyrna the Greek city he believed it ought to be, obtained the recognition and support of Britain, France, Italy; but Constantine was not big enough for the business.

Of course, the late king's supporters will defend him. It will be said that he did not send the Greek army into Asia Minor. True, but he kept the army there to his own undoing. It will be said with regard to the Serbo-Greek treaty it was repudiated not by Constantine, but by Serbia, before the beginning of the World War. But that is now ancient history. Constantine may have warned the German Emperor not to allow the Bulgarians to pursue the Allies into Greek territory; it may be that he agreed at one time to furnish rifles to the Allies; it may be true that had Greece joined with the Allies in the early stages of the war, she would have

been wiped out, as was Rumania. The fact, however, is that Constantine sided with the Central Powers, was exiled from his country, returned to his place as king, and was defeated by the Turks. Once again he is in exile.

IT IS encouraging to have our Secretary of Commerce telling us that the allied war debts to the United States can be paid "without undue strain" and within a reasonable period of time. Mr. Hoover has real sources of information, and he undoubtedly speaks for the present Administration. He bases his statement upon the fact that payments for interest and amortization between the continental nations of Europe would amount to about \$350,000,000 yearly, which is from 2 to 12 per cent of their governmental income. Since this is the fact, there can be but one reason for the failure of European nations to pay; that is war. If Europe can have peace, she can pay. It would add immeasurably to the weal of the world if Europe should establish peace and pay. If Europe does not pay, the financial system of the world will be strained to the limit. If another European war begins, the miseries of the world will increase incalculably. All the complications involved in our present-day snarl are man-made. It ought to be reasonable to hope that man can cease his sins and behave.

The whole question is a question of enlightened self-interest. Our own opinion is that there is intelligence enough left among the European States to readjust economic boundaries, to reduce armaments, to balance budgets. Once again, however, the intelligence will be inoperative without a marked increase of good-will. There is good-will in Europe, but there is not enough. Perhaps the realization that aid from the United States is contingent upon evidences of a greater good-will have an ameliorating influence upon the distressing acerbities.

RETURN

BY GILBERT RIDDELL

Where have you been, my soldier son?
I? I have walked through hell.
What have you seen, my warrior brave?
I? Things I dare not tell.
What have you heard, my darling lad?
I? Words that sear the soul.
What have you done, my tender boy?
I? Things of monstrous mold.
What did you feel in those dreadful hours?
Anger, and fear, and pain.
What is this bauble, my darling son?
All that I went to gain.